Scheme, previously known as Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) Scheme, is fully funded from the domestic resources. It aims at providing traning and skill development to women to facilitate their obtaining employment or self-employment on a sustained basis. The target group under the scheme are the poor and needy women, women from weaker sections of society, such as SCs and STs, etc. The scheme stands transferred to the States with effect from 1.4.2006.

(b) The information is available in the Annual Reports of the Ministry. The same can also be accessed at the website of the Ministry titled www.wcd.nic.in

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Monitoring and Evaluation with reference to performance of the Swawlamban projects is undertaken by the State Women Development Corporations/Central Social Welfare Board through its State Social Welfare Advisory Boards. Appropriate action, including recovery of GOI grant and black-listing of the organizations/institutions/ NGOs, is taken in those cases where the performance is found to be unsatisfactory.

Scheme to eradicate malnutrition

2257. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) which are the scheme sponsored by Government to eradicate malnutrition among children;

(b) whether Government have assessed the performance of such schemes;

(c) if so, the details of benchmarks to assess the performance of these schemes;

(d) whether Government agree with the finding of the recent National Family Health Survey indicating high incidents on malnutrition; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to improve the performance of existing schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND

CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which *inter alia,* aims at improving nutritional status of children (0-6 years), pregnant women and lactating mothers through a package of services consisting of supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, non-formal pre-school education and health and nutrition education.

Malnutrition being a multi-facted problem requiring a multi-sectoral approach, a number of other interventions are also being undertaken through schemes of other Ministries/Departments which, directly or indirectly, have a bearing on reducing malnutrition amongst children. Some of these schemes are Reproductive and Child Health Programme, National Nutritional Anaemia Control Programme, National Prophylaxis Programme against Blindness due to Vitamin-A deficiency, National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme, Targeted Public Distribution System, National Rural Health Mission - Reproductive Child Health (RCH), Total Sanitation Campaign and Swajaldhara and Poverty Alleviation Programme etc.

(b) and (c) During the last three years, following assessments of ICDS Scheme have been carried out:

(i) **Three Decades of ICDS—An Appraisal by NIPCCD (2005):** Comparative data on selected inputs, outputs and outcome variable were culled out from two national level benchmark studies, namely, National Evaluation of ICDS (NIPCCD, 1992) and Concurrent Evaluation of ICDS (NCAER, 2001). These two studies were treated as benchmarks to assess the performance of ICDS Scheme.

(ii) **Endline Survey of World Bank assisted ICDS-III Project:** Baseline survey of 2000 was the benchmark.

(iii) **Rapid Facility Survey of Infrastructure at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) by NCAER (2004):** The primary objective of the study was to provide national and State level data on infrastructure availables at AWCs, supplies and human resources. As this was a situational analysis, no benchmark was laid down.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Some of the major steps taken in the recent past to increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under ICDS are:

(i) Expansion of the ICDS Scheme to 466 ICDS Projects and 1.88 lakh AWCs under 1st Phase of expansion in 2005-06.

(ii) Further expansion of ICDS Scheme to 173 Projects, 107274 AWCs and 25961 Mini-AWCs under 2nd Phase of expansion in the current year.

(iii) Operationalization of a number of Projects/Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) sacntioned earlier and some in the year 2005-06.

(iv) Doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition from Re.1/- to Rs. 2/- per beneficiary per day.

(v) Sharing of 50% cost of supplementary nutrition with the States/ UTs.

(vi) Constant emphasis on States/UTs to: (a) Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms and (b) Ensure delivery of other services *viz.* immunization, health check-up, referral services, nutrition and health education and pre-primary education through effective convergence with the Schemes/ Programmes of Ministry of Health, Edcuation and Rural Development (Drinking Water Supply).

(vii) To strengthen the existing monitoring and supervision mechanism for ICDS Scheme, the Government of India has approved setting up of a Central Monitoring Unit (CMU) at National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), which would monitor the Scheme through independent professional organization/ institution in each State/UT. This would be in addition to the monitoring mechanism in place at present.

(viii) A National level Monitoring Committee has been set up under the Chairpersonship of MOS (WCD) I/c to oversee the entire functioning of ICDS Scheme and to ensure that the services are delivered to the target groups in an effective manner and the objectives of the scheme are fulfilled within the overall framework of the ICDS Scheme.

As a result of the measures mentioned above, number of operational Projects and AWCs has gone up from 5267 and 6.49 lakh as on 31.3.2004 to 5724 and 7.81 lakh respectively as on 30.9.2006. Number of beneficiaries of supplementary nutrition has also gone up from 375.09 lakh to 654.65 lakh during the same period.